



To joyfully
share the
love of
Christ as
we...

WORSHIP

GOD

CONNECT

TO GROW

&

SERVE

THE

WORLD

Worship 2

Finance 3

Misc 4

Me and Mrs. Jones

Pastor Bruce



(episode #11)

The Corona Virus: Why?

Me and Mrs. Jones have been watching the progress of the Coronavirus with mouths agape.

"How could this be happening so suddenly?"

I'm sure all of us are wondering why? It's the big theological question of the year: "Why is God allowing this devastating contagion to attack our world?"

Or, "Why now? Is this some sort of divine retribution for America's sins?" Or, more personally, "Why me?" or "Why my loved one?"

The straight-up answer is simple: I **don't know why**. I have no unique privileged position with respect to God's will on any given matter.

And so I can't tell you why Hurricane Dorian devastated the Abacos. I can't tell you why a great plague of locusts is descending upon East Africa,

potentially threatening the food supply of tens of millions (I bet you might not have heard of that one). And I don't know why the California wildfires eradicated some towns while randomly skipping others. I just don't know.

But, I'll wager if I could supply an answer to that question, it would not provide much comfort. In the end, explanations don't offer much comfort. They might help us in future planning; they might give us a different course to chart in the future. Who knows, we might be able to respond to a pandemic more efficiently. I will leave that to the scientists and the epidemiologists.

This I know: when casting about for theological understanding of any disaster, I revert to the wisdom of Mr. Rogers, who famously said:

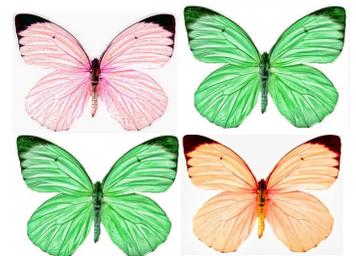
"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

Somewhere else I read (when

someone was trying to make sense of the wildfires in California): Don't look for God's will in the flames, look for God's will in the resolute courage of the firefighters. God's purposes will always seem inexplicable to us when we are looking for a place to locate blame or responsibility. But it is usually evident when we are faced with the prospect of responding to the tragedy.

Jesus once passed by a man born in blindness. His disciples asked who sinned, the man or his parents. Jesus would have none of that. He said, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him." (John 9:3)

So perhaps our question shouldn't be, "Why did God permit this?" so much as "How does God want me to respond?"



Bruce



Reverent Worship

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe;”

Hebrews 12:28 (NRSV)

We all love our wonderful place just feet away from the Atlantic Ocean called Christ by the Sea United Methodist Church in Vero Beach FL, where people literally have gathered from all over the world to worship God. Due to our health crisis today however, our worship at CBTS has now been temporarily moved into our very own homes via the amazing gift of streaming technology. Yet, this doesn't mean we need to change the reverence we must observe when worshipping our mighty God!

Our eclectic congregation share one common goal when called to worship: to establish a dialogue with our Lord and Savior, to humbly offer our lives and gifts to Him, and to refuel our spirits so that we can go forth into the world to proclaim the Good News to a whole world in great need! How great it is to know that we can still do all of this safely using the technology at our disposal.

This act of worship requires that we come to worship God with our most sincere attitude of reverence. Our worship starts as soon as we wake up in the morning. We must find time to quiet our souls, detach ourselves from the modern day ongoing distractions, and shift the attention from us towards God.

What a joy is it to know that “where there are two or more gathered in His name, God will be there with us!” While we might find ourselves worshipping alone, or with our family members in our homes, let us rest assured that we are all One in Christ when we are being part of our streaming service.

The sanctuary as a term is a reminder of the sanctity, sacredness, and holiness we must observe when we worship God. Just as we are the Temple for the Holy Spirit, consider your area during the streaming as if you were in our CBTS sanctuary. Let us immerse our hearts, minds, and souls as we participate with the *music, prayer, scripture* and the *message* in our worship services. What a joy and a blessing that now we can even participate of *Holy Communion* despite our current distance from each other. At the end, God knows who we are, where we are, and He is always with us, AMEN!

Dr. Marcos D. Flores, Director of Worship Arts



The Source
The trusted symbol of hope for the
POOR & HOMELESS

Helping at The Source

Serve

Many of you are anxious to get back to doing the work of the Lord by serving others, as we have always done at Christ By The Sea. Here is an opportunity to do so if you are able.

The Source, a local Christian outreach ministry to the poor and homeless, is providing delivery and pick-up meal services 7 days a week at 9am, noon, and 5pm. They are accepting church member volunteers to assist with assembling take-out meals.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call The Source at 772-564-0202.

Electronic Giving

Live-Stream Your Offering Any Time!

Checking / Savings * Credit / Debit Card

A Convenient, Simple Choice @

www.cbtsumc.org



Spring Into Action

Scanning this icon with your smart phone, using the Quick Response code reader app, allows you to make donations anytime!



Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19 life goes on at Christ by the Sea. The Scholarship Committee is working with three return applicants, Stephan Coll, Diana Flores, and Melina Zohn to provide scholarships for their continued education during the 2020-21 academic year. Applications are due May 15, the committee will meet virtually, and we hope to award the scholarships in mid-June. Stu Keiller, Endowment Scholarship Chair

CHALLENGE!

The challenge is back again this year! One of our congregants has extended a Challenge Grant and another has increased it for a challenge to a **Match of \$45,000.**

These special gifts, which are over and above your regular tithes, will help us meet the needs for next year's budget. We hope to support our Serve Mission programs and other ministries through the general budget. Can you help meet

THE CHALLENGE?!

ENDOWMENT

The Coronavirus plus the financial crisis that has followed has had a negative impact on our Endowment Fund account at Morgan Stanley in the first quarter of 2020. We did beat the Dow, Nasdaq and S&P 500 because we are over weighted in bonds. As I write this we did get a good bump up in the 2nd quarter starting April 1st. But of course the market is still very volatile while our Country continues to struggle with the virus. Please continue to pray for those who have suffered greatly with loss of life to themselves and their loved ones and to those brave people who have put their lives on the line to save others. We are a long term fund that will endure. Others will not. Be safe. In God we trust.

Bob Madsen, Chair

Celebrate!

ANNIVERSARIES

5/07 Darryl & Brenda Daniels
 5/07 Linston & Charmaine Hensley
 5/09 Tery & Suzy Hopper
 5/19 Fernando & Alejandra Coll
 5/20 Jeff & Babs Irwin
 5/21 Charles & Janet Troutman
 5/24 Stephen & Kathy Barth
 5/24 Ray & Adriana Lancaster

BIRTHDAYS

5/02 Charlie Burnett	5/19 Cynthia Barnes
5/06 Sally Haeffner	5/20 Ryan Sandgren
5/07 Mary Gustave	5/22 Irene Bates Dunjohn
5/09 Rick Cappelen	5/23 Stephen Barth
5/11 Mike Hale	5/23 Janet Zeigler
5/13 Jim Brumbaugh	5/25 Frank Marden
5/14 Jean Tisdall	5/25 Betty Alewine
5/15 June Traylor	5/26 Ron Moreland
5/15 Elaine Moore	5/26 Nila Moylan
5/16 Craig Bassue	5/27 Babs Irwin
5/17 Dwight Holmes	5/28 Barb Urban
5/18 Fernando Coll	5/29 Rosemary Gagliardi 90!
5/19 Neva Crosby	5/30 Marian Farabee
	5/31 Emily Prospere



H A P P Y
 Mother's Day

Feeling Disconnected?

Connect

I think we are all feeling disconnected right now. But, in an effort to help us stay connected to one another, a number of virtual meetings and classes are being offered through Zoom. Zoom is a platform that allows you to join a meeting with audio and/or video if you have a computer or smart phone with audio/video capability – and it's FREE and EASY!

These are the meetings/classes being offered now through Zoom:

Sunday School

1. Mike and Rita Hale have started their New Friends Sunday School meeting at 9:45
2. Linda Petrilla has started her class, Going Deeper, at 9:45 as well
3. Joann Rondeau is also leading Sunday School, but hers starts at 9:30.

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. – Pastor Bruce is offering this meeting currently studying “How to Read the Bible with Understanding and Wisdom.”

Fridays at 9:30 a.m. – Joann is offering a meeting featuring Rick Warren’s devotional examining application of Scripture to our daily living.

We would love to have you join a class and are happy to assist you in using Zoom. It’s just a click away!! Phone numbers for those running meetings are below. Hope to “see” you soon!

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matt. 18:20

Love and blessings,

Joann

Mike and Rita Hale - (478) 319-7627, (772) 907-5971 Linda Petrilla - (772) 633-4155

Pastor Bruce – (772) 231-1661 x301

Joann Rondeau – (570) 350-6317, (772) 231-1661 x302

